

Mr G Stewart
Kings Meadow Homes
(via email)

Frances Martin
Director for Economic Growth
and Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: 220320/TCA
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
Email: sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

11 April 2022

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr Stewart

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO A GROUP OF SIX SYCAMORE TREES AT 57 BAKER STREET,
READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for your formal Notice of 4 March 2022 regarding the above.

I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- Group of 6 Sycamore on the boundary with Jesse Terrace - re-pollard back to previous pollard points, to the height indicated in your application photograph (reproduced at the end of this letter).

In terms of the extent of work, it is noted that the trees appear to be 'lapsed pollards'. As such, whilst the above agreement is 'back to previous pollard points', your tree surgeon should take this in conjunction with advice given in 7.10 of BS3998:2010 in relation to avoiding cutting back to the knuckle but instead shortening by cutting just above a suitable lateral branch, or failing that, by retaining a live stub from which new shoots could grow. He/you may wish to consider the extent of works proposed, with reference to this guidance, and consider a crown reduction instead or, failing that, avoid pollarding all back to the previous points and consider selective cutting, retaining some of the pollard branches. Please ensure your tree surgeon considers this advice for the benefit of the trees - if any of these options is applied, I can confirm that a new tree works Notice would not be required as this would be lesser works than that for which you gave Notice. I would, however, be grateful to be advised of the final works, if different from that in your Notice.

In relation to timing, given the extent of works intended, it is better for the trees to wait

until mid-late Summer (July - September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height, or during the winter months of December - January during the period of dormancy to minimise the impact on their future health.

Please note the informatives attached to this letter, particularly that relating to disturbance of wildlife. Given that we are in nesting season, it will be important to check the trees for signs of nesting activity, if you intend to do the works before the end of the nesting season, i.e. before the end of August. Given the advice on the timing of works above, it would seem a better option to wait until the beginning of September if at all feasible within your site schedule.

The agreed works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 15 April 2022.

This decision is valid for two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses.

Please inform me of the date of works so that we can put this on the planning file and inform local residents.

Informatives

1. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. However written notice must be given 5 working days in advance of removing dead wood. Where a branch is deemed to be 'dangerous', i.e. where works are 'urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm', you are required to give notice to the Council 'as soon as practicable after the works become necessary'.
2. Disturbance of wildlife: It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to disturb roosting bats or nesting birds. It is advisable to consult your tree surgeon/consultant to agree an acceptable time for carrying out any work. Wildlife and habitat controls are administered by Natural England who can be contacted on 0300 060 3900; enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk
3. It is best to avoid works in the period immediately before or during bud burst and leaf fall to minimise the effect on the long-term health of the tree
4. Works undertaken should not be over and above that specified in the Notice, i.e. the removal of any other branches, other than those required to re-pollard/reduce height, has not been included.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Richard Gresswell, GressGardens

Approved reduction:

